

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7474

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 2449

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UR, US

SUBJECT: V-E DAY CELEBRATIONS

1. MFA USA DIVISION DEPUTY DIRECTOR FEDOSEYEV TOLD ME FEBRUARY 19 THAT THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT IS WORKING HARD ON PREPARATIONS FOR THE CELEBRATION OF V-E DAY AND IS TREATING IT AS A HIGHLY IMPORTANT OCCASION. FEDOSEYEV SAID THAT THE SOVIETS HOPED TO ATTRACT HIGH-LEVEL DELEGATIONS FROM THE ALLIED POWERS. HE SUGGESTED THAT POSSIBLY VICE PRESIDENT ROCKEFELLER COULD COME.

2. FEDOSEYEV SAID THAT THERE WAS NOT LIKELY TO BE A MILITARY PARADE IN OBSERVANCE OF V-E DAY. COMMENT: IN CONNECTION WITH THE NOVEMBER 7 PARADE, WHICH CONTAINED NOTHING NEW, SEVERAL SOVIET OFFICERS SUGGESTED TO MEMBERS OF THE ATTACHE CORPS THAT THERE WOULD BE AN IMPRESSIVE PARADE OF NEW EQUIPMENT ON MAY 4. HOWEVER, THERE HAS BEEN NO RECENT MENTION OF SUCH A PARADE.

3. FEDOSEYEV CITED A NUMBER OF U.S.-SOVIET EXCHANGES WHICH HE SAID WERE IN THE WORKS FOR THE OCCASION. REFERRING TO CONVERSATIONS IN GENEVA, HE MENTIONED AN EXCHANGE OF ELBE VETERANS, AN EXCHANGE OF PILOTS AND CREWS WHICH HAD PARTICIPATED IN THE SHUTTLE BOMBING, AND AN EXCHANGE OF SHIP VISITS (HE DID NOT SAY WHETHER IN MURMANSK OR LENINGRAD).

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WHEN I TOLD FEDOSEYEV THAT WE DID NOT WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN

JOINT COMMEMORATIONS OF V-E DAY ON GERMAN SOIL, FEDOSEYEV
REPLIED, "WE HAVE PROBLEMS WITH OUR GERMANS TOO."

4. FEDOSEYEV SAID ONE IMPORTANT MOSCOW EVENT WOULD BE "
SOLEMN MEETING" IN KREMLIN ON EVE OF V-E DAY WHICH WOULD BE
ATTENDED BY ALL TOP SOVIET LEADERS AND, HOPEFULLY, BY HIGH-
RANKING DELEGATIONS FROM WORLD WAR II ALLIES. FEDOSEYEV STRESSED
THAT PRESENT PLANNING IS STILL VERY TENTATIVE, BUT THAT MFA
IS THINKING, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT U.S. DELEGATION MIGHT BE
HEADED BY VICE PRESIDENT ROCKEFELLER.

5. COMMENT: NEITHER FRENCH NOR BRITISH EMBASSIES HERE HAS
RECEIVED ANY OFFICIAL WORD ABOUT EVENT MENTIONED PARA 4.
REMARKS BY FEDOSEYEV INDICATE, HOWEVER, THAT SOVIETS PLAN
TO AIM HIGH.
STOESSEL

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